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THE CASE OF MERWIN K. HART

In connection with Harold L. Ickes' recent characterization of Merwin K. Hart as "fascist-minded" and the latter's indignant demand that the Secretary of the Interior retract his statement, it is worth reviewing some of the facts The Hour has revealed about Mr. Hart.

The September 28 issue of The Hour carried an article entitled "The Activities of Merwin K. Hart," which pointed out that Mr. Hart had not only expressed his contempt for democracy in words -- "it is time to brush aside this word democracy with its connotations"; but that through his activities he had also been closely associated with leading Fifth Columnists in the United States. The Hour observed:

"Whether or not Hart is reluctant to 'align himself' with enemies of U. S. democracy, is best shown by the company he keeps. Among his associates and friends are outstanding American fascists: Father Coughlin, for whose publication, Social Justice, Hart wrote an article entitled "There Is No Want In National Spain"; Allen Zoll, anti-Semite indicted on charges of attempted extortion and former fuehrer of the American Patriots; Father Edward Lodge Curran, warm supporter of Coughlin; Gerald K. Smith, midwest petty fuehrer; John B. Trevor; John B. Snow; etc."

Our article also stated that on December 8, 1938, Mr. Hart held a meeting made notable by the presence of Bund-leader Fritz Kuhn; that on December 16 of the same year Mr. Hart spoke at a pro-Franco rally of the American Patriots arranged by extortionist Allen Zoll; that Mr. Hart organized in collaboration with Allen Zoll a "Pro-American" mass meeting held on February 19, 1940.

Hart on the "Minority" Question

The Hour commented on the fact that Mr. Hart, using a device in current favor among U. S. anti-Semites, likes to denounce "refugees" and "international liberals" as being "blinded by fury at the persecution of minorities in Germany" and wanting "to drag us into their wars." For evidence of Mr. Hart's sympathetic understanding of the way in which the Nazis treat "minorities" in the Third Reich, we referred to

Hart's book, America -- Look At Spain, in which the author condones with historical analogies the persecution of the Jewish people in Spain.

State

In discussing Mr. Hart's chairmanship of the New York/Economic Council, an organization that has consistently pursued anti-labor, anti-democratic activities, The Hour pointed out that a pamphlet published by the Council recommends for additional reading-material the literature of the notorious anti-Semite and labor-spy Harold J. Jung, as well as the works of the fascistic Elizabeth Dilling. This particular pamphlet contains a preface written by Mr. Hart.

It would seem from such facts as the above that if the Secretary of the Interior erred in his characterization of Merwin K. Hart, he erred on the side of understatement.

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LAWRENCE DENNIS, "INTELLECTUAL" FASCIST

At the time Mr. Ickes made his remarks about M. K. Hart, he also touched upon the fascistic inclinations of Lawrence Dennis. The latter has since challenged the Secretary's right "to attack the private characters and motives of the appeasers or would-be appeasers." In a rambling letter to the New York Times, Mr. Dennis chides Mr. Ickes for "smearing" him but observes that he will not deign to "take up the gauntlet."

It is noteworthy that Lawrence Dennis, who has been so clamorous an exponent of American Fascism, is today reluctant to be labeled as a fascist. Like many U. S. Fifth Columnists, he has suddenly discovered that he is motivated by the purest and most patriotic of principles. In his latest book, The Dynamics of War and Revolution, he strains to declare his "loyalty" to this country, expounding his own peculiar brand of patriotism in passages like the following:

"As soon as we enter the next war I shall try to join up in any capacity in which I may be found useful. ... I shall be delighted to serve my country with its war propaganda. I am just as ready to lie as to kill for my country. Any ethic which does not put a man's country above all else is a stench in my nostrils. I have for no foreign country any sympathy which would make it difficult for me to kill its nationals if ordered by my country to do so."

The poverty of these jingoistic phrases is exposed when Mr. Dennis voices his real attitude toward American Democracy and toward the American people:

"To make the task of my critics as simple as possible, let me say categorically that I do not believe in democracy or the intelligence of the masses [read, the American people] as my critics will generally use these terms. If democracy merited my believing in it or if the masses had social intelligence to which rational appeal could be made, we should



not have fought the Civil War and the World War or be in the mess we have been in for the past ten years."

Dennis High Society

Mr. Dennis, who pictures himself as a bit of an aristocrat, remarks that he writes for a very select group:

"This book is not addressed, then, to those who will be stampeded into war like cattle into a corral but to all the elite ..."

And who are the "elite"? The author answers this question in his opening chapter, which is modestly entitled, "Definitions: They Must Be Made By Those Who Make History":

"The in-elite are the people who run things. ... The out-elite are those who might be running things if there occurred a shift in power. There can be no question as to who are the ins. ... One cannot designate conclusively the future elite among the outs. One has to wait until they come into power. But one is justified in saying that there always is an out or potential elite which might become the in or actual elite in a change of circumstances."

Of course, the fashionable gentry that Mr. Dennis chatters about so vaguely, and for whom his book is written, are -- in simple language -- the fascists. Adolph Hitler also uses the word "elite." He applies it to his most trusted set of thugs: the Schutzstaffel, the blackshirted Elite Guard of the Nazis.

Mr. Dennis' works are filled with fascistic jargon, such as his use of the word "elite." Like Hitler, and all other fascist "theoreticians," Mr. Dennis likes to conceal real aims and motives behind mystical prattle about the "dynamics" of society, etc.

The fact is that Mr. Dennis' principles today are just what they were when he was assistant editor of the not-so-stylish Awakener, defunct fascist journal which had as executive editor the notorious anti-Semite Joseph P. Kamp and which featured articles by labor-spy Harry Jung, head of the American Vigilant Intelligence Federation. Despite his patriotic claims, Lawrence Dennis remains what he was then: an out-and-out fascist.

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FROM NAZI RADIO-NETWORK TO NEW YORK TOWN HALL

On December 29 at the Town Hall in New York City there will be a mass meeting to celebrate the 75th birthday of Andrew Sheptyoky, the famous Archbishop of Lvov, Galicia. Principal speaker at the celebration will be Luke Myshuha, editor of Svoboda, fascistic Ukrainian-American newspaper. It is scarcely more than a year ago that Luke Myshuha spoke as a guest of the Nazis over one of their government-controlled radio networks. An interesting sidelight on the celebration is the fact that only a few months ago Myshuha's paper published a story giving "full details" of the assassination of Archbishop Sheptyoky at the hands of Soviet soldiers. Although

it has not retracted the story, this paper is now congratulating the Archbishop on his birthday!

It is significant that Bishop Ivan Buchko is playing a leading part in arranging the Sheptycky celebrations, not only in New York but in many other parts of the country. The Hour readers will recall that before coming to the United States, the Polish Bishop experienced certain difficulties with the authorities in South America, where he was suspected of pro-Nazi activities. When he reached New York, Buchko -- in his first interview with the press -- referred to the ODNWU, fascistic Organization for the Rebirth of the Ukraine, as representing the "flower of the nation."

To supervise the arranging of the various Sheptycky meetings, a Festival Committee, with Buchko as president, has been organized. Its composition is highly significant. Its members include V. Cherevatiuk, representative of the ODNWU, who visited Germany on the eve of the war and afterwards boasted of having been received by Hitler; Mrs. Stephanie Halychyn, of the ODNWU "Golden Cross"; Dr. Siemens-Siemenovitch of the fascistic Hetman band; Michael Piznak, representing the so-called Central Committee of Ukrainian Organizations of the City of New York, which, despite its high-sounding title, is little more than an ODNWU front; Semen Demedchuk, who was interned in the United States during the World War as a German agent. Conspicuous by their absence from the Committee are leading Ukrainian progressives, like Bishop Bohachevsky of Philadelphia, Pa.

Pro-democratic Ukrainians say the meetings to celebrate the birthday of the well-loved Archbishop Sheptycky are but an attempt on the part of the ODNWU-Hetman elements to reach large numbers of Ukrainian-Americans, in the hope of involving some of them in future fascistic activities.

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TOKYO'S VOICE IN NEBRASKA

Like many of his fellow Fifth Columnists (see The Hour for November 23), Naziphile Charles B. Hudson of Omaha, Nebraska, is disseminating Japanese propaganda material, in addition to that which he handles for the Third Reich. The December 2 issue of his weekly bulletin, America In Danger!, carries this chimeric version of developments in the Far East:

"Coincident with peace pact made by Japan with Nanking Govt, thus ending 40 months war in China (AP 11-30-40), very same press says that Pres. Roosevelt grants the Judeo-Red-Russia-dominated part of China a loan of \$100,000,000. ... to continue to war upon helpless Chinese, and incidental Japs that might be in China. Bound to kill 10 Chinese to 1 Jap. Thus USA sins!"

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